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**Phase 2 Community Composting**

**Project Tender: April 2024**

**Community Composting – Phase 2**

***Background***

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) is committed to achieving the targets of zero waste and net zero carbon by 2040. This involves changing behaviours and attitudes to prevent people from throwing away valuable resources that could be reused directly or reused after treatment. People need to move towards a culture of reuse, repair and avoiding waste, including, in this instance - food.

A Waste Composition Analysis in 2021 of the region’s waste identified that 26.3% of residual waste bins contained food waste that could have been composted. The decomposition of organic waste in the form of methane, is 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide at contributing to climate change. On average, the UK throws away 143 kgs of food per person, per year (ons.gov.uk).

We currently support residents to home compost through the distribution of compost bins and with the provision of online resources. However, we recognise that almost fifty per cent of the residents in the region do not have access to a garden or may only have a balcony and therefore, are unable to compost food waste.

This is Phase 2 of the Community Composting Pilot Project; and will cover the remaining three of the six districts, Liverpool, Halton, and St Helens for complete City Region coverage. While continuing to support and monitor the 3 locations developed in phase 1.

***The Project***

Phase 2 of the Community Composting pilot project is focussed on enabling residents with limited access to private gardens to compost. The purpose of the project is to educate, inform and enable individuals, households, and communities to work together, support each other and influence changes in behaviour so that less food waste is discarded in household residual waste bins and less food waste requires treatment by MRWA. The project will consist of one composting specialist working with a minimum of 3 community groups. Each group should be able to accommodate up to 30 households or approx. 50 residents.

***Sustainable Development Goals***

MRWA has prioritised four of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals with regards to its impact from operations and activities. The prioritised goals are,

3. Good health and well-being.

11. Sustainable cities and communities.

12. Responsible consumption and production.

13. Climate Action.

This project will support all four goals. It will contribute to people’s self-esteem, relieve isolation, and instigate community cohesion. It will manage food waste where it is produced, influence sustainable communities, and reduce methane emissions which contribute to climate change. Participants will change behaviour and be more responsible about their consumption and the waste they produce.

***What will your organisation’s participation involve?***

If you would like to be involved in this project, you would work closely with the MRWA Strategy & Development team to deliver community composting in the Liverpool City Region.

We are looking to commission a composting specialist to manage three community composting projects in the Liverpool City Region (LCR). The LCR includes the local authorities of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, and Wirral.

The composting specialist will have the opportunity to engage with local communities to establish 3 community household food composting projects. This project is focussed on residents who have limited access to a private garden, or those in need of support in utilising their own private compost bin.

***Taking part***

Taking part will involve the following:

***Engage with local communities –*** you will identify groups in their communities that have expressed or shown an interest in community composting and identify suitable locations. This project is targeted at residents that have the desire to compost food waste but not the capacity to do so. This may be due to a lack of suitable garden space or restriction in maintaining their own compost bin.

***Health & Safety -*** You will maintain excellent health and safety standards throughout the project.You must manage the project on our behalf and mitigate regulatory risk by complying with the Environment Agency Composting Regulations T23. T23 exemption allows composting of small volumes of vegetation, cardboard, and food waste to spread on soil to add nutrients or improve its structure. You will undertake health and safety risk assessments (site and project aspects and impacts) and maintain a register.

***Help increase community composting in the region –*** as you have experience and connections in the community, the successful specialist will identify three suitable groups to take part in the project. You will have significant experience in engaging with communities. You will develop resources and provide training workshops for participants.

***Deliver community composting projects –*** You will identify three sites (one per district) to participate in the project. Each facility will consist of a membership of up to 30 households and 50 residents. You should work with the communities to set up a functional compost facility open to the residents of that community. You will provide suitable kitchen caddies to transport food waste to the composting facility.

***Consider sustainability*** – throughout the project you should consider sustainability implications and ensure the project is keeping waste production to a minimum.

***Communications support*** - We will work with the composting specialist to establish a communications plan and share relevant information with community organisations and on social media. As part of the project, you will provide images and share stories for use in promoting the project.

***Produce project evaluation*** – Following completion of the project, provide evidence in a summary report of the success and possible failures of the project and the value of continuous support for community composting facilities in the region. You should produce a report that includes the following,

* Summary of project, including outcomes.
* Demonstrate that community composting is a viable and beneficial way for people in general and for those that are unable to compost in their own homes (terraces, multi-occupancy buildings).
* Collect data of waste diverted from residual household waste bins.
* Identify changes in consumer behaviour with regards to food waste diverted from collection and disposal.

**Project outcomes**

We’re looking for the following outcomes from this project:

* Partnership with at least three community groups
* Develop composting locations with the capacity to support up to 90 households across three LCR districts.
* Health and safety risk assessments
* Recruit volunteers to support the running of the facilities.
* Delivery of at least 3 face-to-face workshops, to educate and inform residents about the benefits and how to run a successful compost project.
* Continue to support and monitor the three preestablished sites from phase 1 to provide a cohesive city region.
* Evidence of food waste diverted from household bins.
* Evaluation/end of project report

**How your organisation can benefit from taking part in the project**

***Help instigate behaviour change –*** our long-term goal is to achieve zero waste and carbon by 2040. You can help us shift from a linear to a circular economy, reduce waste and carbon and address the global challenges we face today and, in the future, including poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation. To do this successfully, you will work in partnership and directly engage residents across the LCR.

***Embed waste prevention, reduction and reuse thinking within your organisation***– Expand your organisations knowledge of the challenges faced by people locally and internationally with regards to sustainable lifestyles.

***Provide opportunities for residents to understand the need to compost food waste –*** Help residents to change their behaviour and attitudes towards food waste, understand the consequences of lifestyle choices and their buying habits and only buy what they need so they save money.

***Develop new partnerships and networking links*** – build up relationships with community groups and other interested organisations.

***Provide social value for the LCR communities –*** there is significant social value in community composting.The impact of waste collection, disposal and climate change are all costs that are not usually considered when identifying support for all types of community projects. This is changing as more local authorities recognise the importance of social value and are factoring the benefits into public spending.

**Funding linked to the Project**

* We would like the pilot project to be run in the remaining districts, Liverpool, Halton and St Helens.
* You should demonstrate local knowledge of each of the areas.
* We have a total of £13,500 funding available for this project, £10,500 for the launch of three new locations and a further £3,000 for the ongoing support and monitoring of the original three sites.
* We will evaluate each project application individually and will appoint the right organisation to deliver the best overall outcome for the LCR.

**When will the project be delivered?**

This project will begin April 2024 and end February 2025. A detailed timeline of activities is provided below:

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| **Activity Detail:** | **Dates:** |
| Project tender goes live | 19th April 2024 |
| Project tender closes | 5th May 2024 |
| Tender applications evaluated | w/c 6th May 2024 |
| Organisation selected | 10th May 2024 |
| Due diligence | Following acceptance |
| Project initiation meeting | w/c 13th May 2024 |
| Final reports received | February 2025 |

**Evaluating applications**

We will score applications received based on

* 50% Meeting project objectives
* 40% Finance
* 10% Evaluation

**How to apply**

To apply, please download and complete the proposal form and send to **laura.gilmore@merseysidewda.gov.uk** by 5pm Sunday 5th May 2024. If you have any questions, please contact  **laura.gilmore@merseysidewda.gov.uk.**